PEST MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT
CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

REDUCE PESTICIDE MOVEMENT
BY MANAGING FIELD BORDERS

WHAT:
Field borders are strips of perennial vegetation consisting of cool season grasses, cool season grasses and legumes, warm season grasses, or shrubs. Field borders are managed around the edge of fields to enhance pest management. The field border should be a different vegetation type than the vegetation in the field (i.e. tall fescue with a native warm season grass field border). Since pesticides are not applied to field borders, the different vegetation type makes it easy to distinguish. Otherwise, field borders may have to be marked to prevent accidental treatment with pesticides.

WHEN:
Field Borders are managed according to vegetation type and pesticide use.

WHERE:
This enhancement applies to all fields where pesticides are applied. The field border must be a pesticide non-application area.

HOW:
For additional information, see the attached Field Border Jobsheet.

HOW MUCH:
All existing and planned field borders for CSP enhancement payment must exceed 20' wide in 10-foot increments. Payment will be as follows:

- 30 feet will be paid on $100 per acre/yr. for the additional 10 feet above the minimum.
- 40 feet will be paid on $100 per acre/yr. for the additional 20 feet above the minimum.

Field Border Jobsheet

Benefits

- Provide access (e.g., turn rows and scouting).
- Reduce inputs on lower production land.
- Produce hay.
- Provide wildlife food and cover.
- Provide habitat for beneficial insects.
- Reduce erosion (particularly by eliminating turn rows).
- Improve water quality.
- Provide periodic Grazing

Guidelines

Location

- To maximize multiple benefits, plant field borders around the entire field. Field borders planned for wildlife should connect existing areas of suitable habitat.
- Install borders on sloping end rows (turn rows) and other areas where concentrated water flows will enter or exit the field.
- An irregular edge will help prevent water flow down the outside edge of the vegetated field border.

Vegetation

Select plant species based on the desired uses and benefits of the border. Vegetation can vary within the border. Following is a list of plants commonly used to meet intended functions of a field border. The list is intended as a guide and not to be considered a complete list.

Tall Fescue	15 lbs./ac.	Aug.15-Oct.1 Feb. 20-Apr. 1
Tall Fescue White Clover	15 lbs./ac. 2 lbs./ac.	Aug.15-Oct.1 Feb. 20-Apr. 1
Common Bermudagrass	4-6 lbs./ac.	May 10-July 1
Single Species of Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG)*	6 lbs./ac.	Dec. 1-July 1
Mix of NWSG*	Total of 6 lbs./ac.	Dec. 1–July 1
Mix of NWSG Native Legumes *	6 lbs./ac. and 0.5 lb./ac.	Dec. 1-July 1
Orchardgrass and White Clover*	10 lbs./ac. 2 lbs./ac.	Feb. 20-Apr. 1 Aug.15-Oct. 1
Orchardgrass Timothy Kobe or Korean Lespedeza*	5 lbs./ac. 4 lbs./ac. 15 lbs./ac. 8 lbs./ac.	Feb. 20-Apr. 1
Shrubs*	3’ to 8’ spacing	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Shrub Lespedeza*	3’ x 3’ or 12 lbs./ac.	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
**Provides wildlife food and cover.*		

- For integrated pest management, use a mixture of native wildflowers that provides blooms spring through fall.

Establishment

Select the seedbed preparation technique based on the land condition. Shape gullies and rills during border establishment.

- **Land slopes of <5%.**
  - ❖ Conventional seedbed preparation. Disk then cultipack before and after seeding.
  - ❖ Minimum tillage or no tillage techniques.
  - ❖ Where no erosion hazards exist, natural regeneration may be considered.
- **Land slopes of >5%.**
  - ❖ Minimum tillage or no tillage techniques will be used.

Fertility

- Apply lime and fertilizer based on current soil test for establishment of introduced grasses and legumes. In the absence of a soil test, apply a rate of 2 tons of agricultural lime and 30-60-60 lbs. of N, P_2O_5, and K_2O per acre.
- Native warm season grasses/native legumes DO NOT require lime when soil pH is above 5.5.
- Do not apply nitrogen to native warm season grasses/native legumes or shrubs during establishment.

MAINTENANCE ITEMS

General

- Maintain fertility levels as needed by including the border in the field's fertilization program.
- Shut off sprayers and raise tillage equipment when traveling on borders.
- Periodically remove trees that may invade borders.
- Control weeds by mowing or grazing to a height of 4 inches for introduced grasses and 8 inches for native warm season grasses or apply targeted herbicides.

Erosion Control

- Shape and reseed any gullies or rills that develop in the border.
- If water runoff creates erosion at the edge of the vegetated field border, install measures to maintain sheet flow at the border/crop interface. These measures may need to extend a short distance into the crop field to redirect runoff into the field border.